



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

Public Service Since 1949

Volume 58 Number 4

www.phil-mont.org

April 2008

A big “Thank You” to our troops, past and present.

BB-62 Battleship New Jersey



Amateur radio station NJ2BB

You'll find great pictures and a chronology of the New Jersey at www.bb62museum.org/photos.html

Note: Location change for April meeting

Because of a scheduled Red Cross Blood Drive at our regular meeting location at Roxborough Memorial Hospital, the **APRIL** General Meeting will be held at our alternate meeting place: **Green Lane United Methodist Church**, Green Lane at Ridge Avenue. (Green Lane is the fourth traffic light on Ridge Avenue northwest of the hospital.)

Scholarship deadline approaching

Requests for applications must be postmarked by **April 30**, and completed applications must be received by FAR before **June 1**, 2008. See page 5 for details.

History right on the Delaware river

America's most decorated Battleship is now the area's most exciting museum, open for tours, events and overnight encampments. Exploring “BB62” is experiencing history in a whole new way. Not only do you see exhibits of artifacts from the ship's past, but you are put into the exhibit as you go through the tour route. Sit in the chair from which Admiral Halsey commanded the fleet. Stretch out on the bunks where the sailors slept. Climb into the 16” gun turret and learn how the projectiles were loaded. (From <http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org/>)

To operate from the Big J, contact Dave Burgess WA2TVS, at the BNJARS website:
<http://www.nj2bb.org/guest-op.html>

Contact in Cheltenham!

Aliens land in Abington!

**Strange little cat-like creatures -
but without the cat-itude.**

They say they come in peace to promote Amateur Radio, give away fabulous radio gear and stock up on tuna. They use CW exclusively because they can't “push to talk,” as they lack opposable thumbs. Though mildly upset that there is a *Dog* star and *Bear* constellation, but not so much as a *Cat* asteroid, they're willing to share their hyper-voxilator/ vector-druplacating technology with us.
More on page 6.

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis KB3JWK kb3jwk@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862 Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.	Directors: N3MT (08) K3XS (08) W3AOK (09) WA3KIO (09) N3XKE (09) KB3IV (A) ND3Q (SK)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Webmistress: Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net
	Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net.....at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Netat 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Netat 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	

Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Awards: open Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Directory: WB3KOJ	DX: N3MT Emerg. Coord.: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM	Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU	TVI: W3VVS VE Program: NS3K W3AA Trustee: WU3I Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT
---	---	---	--

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128**
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

The Officers

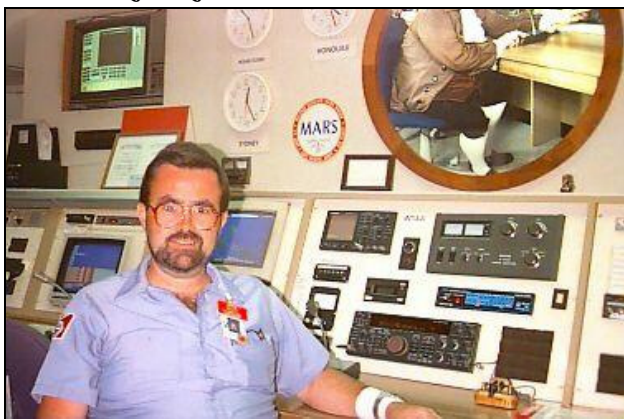
President: WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net

Vice President: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net

Secretary: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Treasurer: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treasurer: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez...

Spring has Sprung! Well here it is April already and the first 3 months have just flown by. This household is getting ready for birthdays, anniversaries and opening the campground. This is the time of the year most of us get our antenna work done. While making those antenna plans please include the chapter on antenna safety. The safety instructions come on every piece of equipment whether it be the masting with a simple sticker or the very complicated antenna instructions. Please read these instructions and stay safe. I can speak of the pain from personal experience, just ask anyone who was at that particular field day! I have some work of my own I have been waiting for the weather to break to perform and will be planning that. As I finish this column I will be heading out on a repair job for WA2DTW in Erwinna PA. Stay safe and see you at the meeting.

de Steve, WU3I

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:
 84 FULL PAID MEMBERS
 8 FAMILY MEMBERS
 1 YOUTH MEMBER
 2 HONORARY MEMBERS
 0 PENDING MEMBERS

Time is flying!

Field day and MS events coming up soon! For deadlines and info contact
 Carmen, KE3QB at
my3gumbas@verizon.com



Thursday, February 28th results:

One paper upgrade from tech to general.
 Three candidates took tests: one new tech and two techs upgraded to general.

Sat March 6 results:

Two techs upgraded to general.

Next test session:

Thursday, April 24, 1900L

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 01 Gene Pressler, W3ZXV**
- 05 Rob Moore, N2RM**
- 06 Andrew Furlong, KC2PMW**
- 07 David Staples, KB3HIU**
- 08 Jackie Chedeville, (XYL W3GQD)**
- 15 Joan Clifford, (XYL W3UY)**
- 22 Susan Hoch, (XYL W3UI)**
- 28 Gwen Patton, NG3P**
- 30 Al Kaufmann, K3ZMJ**

2008 DIRECTORY

With this BLURB you, members only, have received your 2008 PMRC Directory. If there are any errors in your listing please let me know (wb3koj@comcast.net) and the corrections will be printed in this column next month. Your revised listing will also appear in the Fall supplement.

FROM THE SECRETARY

PMRC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 5th, 2008

President Steve, WU3I, called the meeting to order 1955 hours. Present were Bill W3AOK, Ed KB3IV, Fred WA3KIO, Dick W3RM, and Al W3STW.

Dick passed out a treasurer's report and after a brief discussion the report was approved.

The Board takes note that this years' mailer to renew membership has proved to be 98% effective. A review of the general meeting program schedule shows that Ray Kiesel, K3RIZ, will discuss digital TV.

Bill reports the W3QV repeater system is functioning as intended and recent improvements include the purchase of a backup transceiver. The system still needs of a uhf amp.

Ed reports the Sunday morning net control roster is working. Now what is needed are volunteers for the Ten on Ten (10:00 A.M.) and 75 meter (10:20 A.M.) nets.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes March 12th, 2008

President Steve WU3I (in the middle of furious face feeding activities) called the meeting to order at 1955 hours and gave a few words of welcome. Dick W3RM, Treasurer, reports the response to renew membership has been outstanding. With a 98% of last year members renewing "we are far ahead of next month's deadline" and the club finances are doing well.

Dick reminds us that candidates still have an opportunity to file for the Jack Herring and Jim Spencer scholarships, filing deadline 04/30/08. Applicants headed for college or a trade school in the Fall of '08 must have their request to FAR by June 1st '08.

With the acquisition of a Kenwood 450 transceiver and low band antennas, the drive to furnish equipment for the Jim Spencer Equipment Loan program is under way.

Jim NS3K, reports the upgrading of two tech class licensees to general during the March 8th test session, the first of quarterly Saturday morning test

sessions. Remember, regular license examinations are held on the fourth non-holiday Thursday each month. Additional information can be found on page two of the Blurb.

Membership committee chairman Gene, N3XKE reports he has badges for recent members, if you need a club badge Gene's contact information is on page two of the Blurb.

Members and guests please note on your calendars that the next PMRC general meeting on 04/09/08 will be held at the Green Lane United Methodist Church.

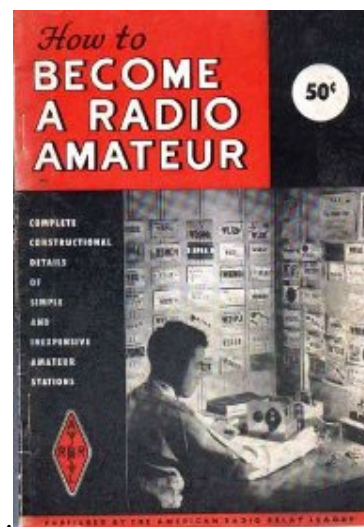
After being dormant for several years, Steve WU3I and Bill W3AOK performed a successful test on the repeater's back-up generator.

Carmen, KE3QB, informs us that for Field Day, we have permission to use Fort Washington State Park sites B and C. Field Day shirts are \$12 and pins are available also.

The club's business having been attended to, Steve closed the business portion of the meeting at 2030 hrs and turned the meeting over to Eric N3QV. Eric (program chairman) introduced our guest speaker Raymond Kiesel, K3RIZ. Mr. Kiesel is Vice President of Research & Development for the Acrodyne Corporation at Oaks, Pa. Ray gave a very interesting slide and lecture presentation on digital television. Ray extended an invitation to the club to visit the Acrodyne Corporation, thank you Ray. 73 Al T.

Respectfully, Al, W3STW

*Here's
what
every
beginner
needs! I
wonder if
it's still
in print...*



Scholarship Program Update

Phil-Mont's Scholarship Program, established by resolution of the Board on October 10, 2001, made its first scholarship award in 2002, the first annual Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship. Mike Taraborrelli, N3MT, then a student at Villanova University, was the lucky recipient. Each year since then, we have underwritten one or more ham radio scholarships, with \$2,000 cash grants, awarded to young licensed amateurs pursuing an education beyond the high school level.

Thus, we are now in our seventh program year, and two scholarships will be awarded in 2008: The annual Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship; and the Clinton R. "Jim" Spencer, Jr., W3BBB, Memorial Scholarship...each with a \$2,000 grant.

Phil-Mont's scholarships are administered, and the recipients selected, by the eminent Scholarship Committee of the Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a consortium of some 75 or more clubs. Each year, FAR administers about 55-60 ham radio scholarships, without cost to the donors, in accordance with selection criteria established by those underwriting the grants. Our scholarships are available to licensed amateurs residing in the Eastern Pennsylvania or Southern New Jersey ARRL sections who are enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in a full time course of studies leading to a degree in any field.

Applicants for scholarships administered by FAR, including Phil-Mont's, can obtain application forms and complete information by **mailing** a request to the F.A.R. Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. Requests for applications **must** be postmarked by April 30. And completed applications **must be received** by FAR before June 1, 2008. The selection of scholarship recipients is made during June, and the lucky awardees are notified shortly thereafter...with grant checks enclosed!

Because PMRC, Inc. is recognized by the I.R.S. as an organization established exclusively for charitable, scientific or educational purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, all contributions to Phil-Mont are deductible by donors for federal income and estate tax purposes. We welcome contributions, in cash or saleable ham equipment, to underwrite both our Scholarship Fund and the Jim Spencer Memorial Equipment Fund.

de Dick, W3RM

Reciprocal Licensing

For many years now, U.S. amateurs (except Novices) traveling or vacationing throughout Europe, and in some other areas, have enjoyed full operating privileges without the need to obtain foreign licenses in each country visited. Through an agreement with The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), U.S. licensees needed only to carry their FCC license, plus a copy of the CEPT Agreement document, to operate "portable" (under each country's amateur rules, of course.)

Well, guess what? We Dumbed-Down and Flunked-Out!

CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group, at its meeting in Basel, Switzerland, January 29-February 1, 2008, conducted a "Re-evaluation of U.S. and CEPT License Equivalence Study" because of "changes in the U.S. license structure and examinations." The Result: "Effective February 4, 2008, The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations now grants full CEPT operating privileges only to those U.S. citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra Class or Advanced Class license." (The Advanced Class is an older license class now available only by renewal to present holders.)

This of course means that U.S. licensees who hold an FCC Technician or General Class license are no longer eligible for full CEPT operating privileges in countries where CEPT reciprocal operation had previously been permitted... Oh Well...

de Dick, W3RM

Don't forget Girl Scouts on the Air

The Amateur Radio demonstration event on April 19, 2008 from 10:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. This event is designed to introduce approximately 50 to 100 girls aged 11 yrs and up to Amateur Radio.

It will be held at Service Center for the Freedom Valley Girl Scouts, 100 Juliette Low Way, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

If you'd like to help please contact:
Laura Hughes, KB3NSW via e-mail at
artforkidstv@aol.com or Charlie Lazarz, KB3HOB
via e-mail at cflazarz@verizon.net

Aliens!

(continued from cover)

You probably noticed by now that this is the *April* issue! So no, the mother ship didn't land in Abington. I made that up. But for great practical jokes it's hard to beat this from the Swedes ...

Sweden's most famous April Fool's Day hoax occurred on April 1, 1962. At the time, STV (Sveriges Television) was the only television channel in Sweden, and it broadcast in black and white.

The station announced that their "technical expert," Kjell Stensson, was going to describe a process that would allow people to view color images on their existing black-and-white sets.

The broadcast cut to Stensson sitting in front of a television set in the studio. He began to explain how the process worked. His discussion was highly technical, going into details about the prismatic nature of light and the phenomenon of "double slit interference." But at last he arrived at the main point. Researchers, he said, had recently discovered that a fine-meshed screen placed in front of a black-and-white television screen would cause the light to bend in such a way that it would appear as if the image was in color.

Stensson told viewers they could experience the effect at home with the help of some simple, readily

accessible materials. Nylon stockings, it turned out, were the perfect fabric to use as a fine-meshed screen. So all viewers had to do, Stensson said, was to cut open a pair of stockings and tape them over the screen of their television set. The image on the television should suddenly appear to be in color.

Stensson cautioned that the viewer would have to be seated at the correct distance from the screen in order to get the full effect. Also, it might be necessary to "move your head very carefully" back and forth, in order to align the color spectrum.

Thousands of viewers later admitted they had fallen for the hoax. Many Swedes today report that they remember their parents (their fathers in particular) rushing through the house trying to find nylon stockings to place over the TV set.

STV attempted its first color broadcast four years later, in 1966. Regular color broadcasts were begun in Sweden on April 1, 1970.

**International Marconi Day
April 26, 2008**

This worldwide event is held every year on the Saturday closest to his birthday, April 25. KM1CC, the Cape Cod Marconi Radio Club, will partner with Cape Cod National Seashore for this event.

Licensed operators are needed to operate at the Coast Guard Station at Eastham from Friday, April 25 at 2000L through 2000L Saturday April 26.

The public is invited to join operators as they make CW and voice contacts around the world. "Keys" will be available for children to practice and they can sign a birthday card which will be sent to Marconi's daughter Princess Elettra Marconi in Italy.

If you want to operate, contact Barbara Dougan, KB1GSO, for more info. E-mail
Barbara_Dougan@nps.gov or call 508-255-3421 ext 16.

de Red, W3RED

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Mahatma Gandhi

Here are Eric's thoughts about the "Bitten by the Bug" article last month by Dick.

Dick,
Reading your article in the March Blurb brought back memories. When I first expressed an interest in Amateur Radio, as a young teenager, my father introduced me to Rick Spencer, N3FD. At the time, Rick and my father worked together at the same company.

We talked for about a half hour or so. He wrote a few things down on a sheet of paper. He explained some of the basics of the hobby, how radio worked and a few frequencies to listen to.

The first thing he told me to get was a scanner, which I was already contemplating. He also explained a bit about repeaters; I still have that piece of paper somewhere in my archives. The second item he told me to pick up was the book entitled *Now You're Talking*, a beginner's book for aspiring amateur radio operators.

Back then in late 1996, I purchased the book and a scanner from Radio Shack. After I started reading about HF in the *Now You're Talking* book, I went back to Radio Shack and purchased a short wave receiver with built in cassette recorder. I made a wire antenna for the radio to pick up short wave. I studied and read the chapters over and over until I memorized just about every detail in the book. The end of the book contained the latest question pool for the novice license. I had also purchased Gordon West's Morse Code training tapes and the technician question pool booklet, also through the ARRL. After that the W5YI practice test software. At the test session I took both novice and technician, and 5 WPM code to obtain a tech-plus license.

It was a lot of studying and understanding and I had questions along the way, but I had a few people around me to ask questions on the items I was studying. Along the way I met you and Rick's dad, W3BBB, and the rest of Phil-Mont. Without that kind of support group I don't think I would have progressed as far as I had gone back then. I also feel that if I did not start out reading theory and introduction, such as in the *Now You're Talking* book, the interest wouldn't have sparked as hot as it did. I think that the new amateurs today who only pickup the question booklet and take practice tests online miss the whole introductory essence of ham radio; and most of them go unseen and unheard, and have that "now what?" look, just like you speak of. Maybe newcomers need to read better books.

Basically the only solution to find out what it's all about and where you can fit into ham radio is the "Bug Squad." We certainly had it back then when I started, even though we didn't officially call it a committee.

Eric - N3QV

"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can..." Dwight D. Eisenhower

The carrier John F. Kennedy returned to Philadelphia to be mothballed recently. Which got me thinking about another famous ship right across the river. Which got me thinking about the wars our country has seen in its short life and the servicemen and women who sacrificed so much and the debt we owe them all. I regret to note that the body count is now up to 4,000 ... Ed.

April at PMRC...

- 2nd Board Meeting
- 6th Sunday net- **WB3KOJ** *ncs*
- 9th General Meeting -*note location change*
- 13th Sunday net- **WU3I** *ncs*
- 20th Sunday net- **KB3IV** *ncs*—
- 22nd Primary Election Day
- 24th VE test session Thursday
- 27th Sunday net- **W2AJV** *ncs*

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater. Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from **you!**

Toronto's top three spoken languages are English, Chinese and Italian. Toronto has the largest Italian population outside Italy, and the second largest Greek population outside Greece.

Didja know ... PACCA, the animal control agency in Philly, takes in an average of 75 animals a day ... and *doesn't have a full time veterinarian?* Astounding!

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Blurb